GENERAL ORDERS, No. 303.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 22, 1864.

The following General Order, No. 81, from the Headquarters, Military Division of West Mississippi, is approved by the President of the United States:

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 81.

HEADQUARTERS,
MILITARY DIVISION OF WEST MISSISSIPPI,
New Orleans, La., December 9, 1864.

Subject to the approval of the President of the United States, Major J. B. COOK, 3d U. S. Colored Cavalry, is hereby promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy of that regiment, to date from the 27th of November, 1864, in consideration of the gallantry displayed by him on that day, when, with his men dismounted, and having nothing but railroad ties for a path, he charged over the Big Black Bridge, near Canton, Mississippi, in the face of a heavy fire, drove off the rebel force stationed on the opposite shore behind a strong stockade, and destroyed the bridge, by which the main line of the rebel General Hood's communications with his depots in South Mississippi and Alabama were effectually cut off. The Major General commanding the Districts of West Tennessee and Vicksburg styles this affair as "one of the most daring and heroic acts of the war."

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL E. R. S. CANBY:

C. T. CHRISTENSEN,
Lieut. Col., Asst. Adj. General.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.

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